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SB 97

Dallas Erickson Testimony
Senate Bill 97
House Judiciary Committee
February 23, 2011

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

The decision whether to have an abortion or continue the pregnancy often has a major long-term impact on a woman's psychological and emotional well-being, her ability to continue formal education, and her future financial status. The proposed measure helps ensure that pregnant teenagers get support and guidance from their parents in this important decision. If parents are not informed, there is a risk that they and their daughters will become permanently estranged at a time when parental support is most important.

Requiring parental consent will lead to a fall in the number of abortions. In Minnesota, the number of legal teenage abortions fell by 25% when a similar measure was passed; in Virginia it fell by 20%. Since abortion is - quite apart from moral questions about its permissibility - physically and psychologically traumatic for mothers, especially teenage mothers, parents certainly should be included by notification.

This is a common sense bill. My research shows 23 states require parental consent. 22 states have parental notification.

Montana is a family state and the parent needs to be protected from their teenager having an abortion without their knowledge so they can fulfill their God given role as parents. Please vote for this bill and put us on the list of states that recognize the role of parents as the most important part of a child's life and decision.

Please give this bill a Do Pass.

Thank you.

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